



**ARIZONA**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
*of* **CHILD SAFETY**

Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>11/7/2019</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Donovan Lanser- 5-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 9/3/18
- 3. Date of fatality:** 9/3/18
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 12/7/18
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Navajo County, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Rebecca Savage – age 38 – Navajo County, AZ

**7. Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:**

On September 3, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning of 5-year-old Donovan Lanser. On September 7, 2018, the Department filed a dependency petition for the other children in the home. On December 7, 2018, the Navajo County Juvenile Court found that the mother, Rebecca Savage, neglected the child when she left him alone in the bathtub when he drowned. Donovan was prone to seizures, had a seizure the day prior to the drowning, and was not receiving medication.

**8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s)\*\*:**

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Rebecca Savage and/or Donovan Lanser:

On November 11, 2009, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to two children by their mother, Rebecca Savage. The Department was unable to locate the family and the case was closed.

On May 20, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Donovan Lanser by his mother, Rebecca Savage. The report was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On January 22, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Rebecca Savage. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect and closed the case after the family completed in-home services.

**9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:**

A joint investigation was conducted with the Navajo County Sheriff's Office.

**10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:**

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were removed and placed in a licensed foster home.



**11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:**

The Department is providing services to the family.

\*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

\*\* Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).  
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.